

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 A proprietary communication protocol is used in a system controller that
3 includes an application controller and a plurality of applications for controlling a plurality
4 of device controllers on a control network by using data relating to system points that
5 correspond to data variables in the network. The protocol communicates a plurality of
6 predefined messages between the application controller and the applications for
7 instructing the application controller to perform a function relating to a select system
8 point, and for reporting to the applications in response to the instructions. The protocol
9 includes a message identification field for identifying a select message from the plurality
10 of messages; and a protocol identification field for identifying the select message as
11 being transmitted via the proprietary communication protocol.